

# Desert Rifles

Issue 1

May 9, 2003

## Tiger Squadron Patrols Iraq-Syria Border

**Story and photo by  
Spc. Justin A. Carmack  
350th MPAD**

AL QIAM, Iraq-British Royal Marines handed over responsibility for areas along the Iraq-Syria border to the 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment on May 4, 2003.

According to U.S. Forces, Al Qiam, a city in the area controlled by the 3rd ACR, contains small pockets of resistance. In a recent incident, British Royal Marines were fired upon during a gathering in the city.

Violence in the area is thought to have been instigated by Iraqi militants who were denied entry into Syria. These resistance groups have taken refuge in many small towns along the border.

According to U.S. intelligence, the militants are using scare tactics to persuade townspeople to remain silent about their presence.

The 3rd ACR took immediate action to root-out Iraqi militants harbored within the city.

Tiger Squadron Commander Lt. Col. Bill Dolan assembled an ensemble of forces consisting of various tracked vehicles, rotary and fixed wing aircraft.

The group entered Al Qiam and offered support for Army Psychological Operations and Civil Affairs which started the process of developing positive relations with local townspeople.

"We were successful. We feel some friendships were made within the city," said Sgt. Mark Hatsell, a soldier with the 361st Psychological Operations Detachment.

Psychological Operations and Civil Affairs continue to gain intelligence from sources within the city. Local sources are providing information about militants located in the area.

According to Dolan it was important that U.S. Forces made their presence known to citizens as well as those militants that oppose regime change.

"Citizens need to know that we are present and that we can be trusted. This is vital to gaining accurate and reliable information from locals," said Dolan.

### In This Issue:

- Calling Ar Ramadi "Home"
- Fox Troop In Al Fallujah
- RCSM Caldwell, Chaplain Faria address the troops
- Worldwide news and The Question of the week



**CONTROL---** 3rd ACR troops make their presence known with mounted and aerial patrols through the area.

# 3d ACR Calls Ar Ramadi Home

Story and photo by  
Spc. Joe Niesen  
350th MPAD

AR RAMADI, Iraq-After perilous convoys and desolate campsites, the soldiers and attachments of the 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment from Fort Carson, Colo., have finally reached their destination-former President Saddam Hussein's Northern Palace in Ar Ramadi, Iraq, otherwise known as Rifles Base.

The spacious grounds have been slowly changed from a luxurious getaway spot to a functional operations center by the soldiers of the 3rd ACR Headquarters and support detachments.

It will take some time before the soldiers on the palace grounds become completely situated, but the installation is already an improvement according to many soldiers.

"Being with my company is nice," said Spc. Latrice Williams of the 502nd Personnel Support Battalion. "It's nice to finally catch-up with them after all of the convoys."

Her comments reflect the stress placed on soldiers as they were separated from their working families in order to meet the demands of the tactical movements that brought the 3rd ACR's soldiers into Iraq.

Most soldiers agree that the living conditions have improved greatly from their last stop at Tactical Assembly Area Rifles. Having a roof and four solid walls is some-



**HOME SWEET HOME---** The palace complex in Ar Ramadi serves now as Regimental Headquarters. Shown here are some of the living quarters on the Euphrates River with the remains of the demolished Southern Palace.

thing many have been without since their arrival in theater.

Still, the absence of running water and hot chow are problems many soldiers hope to have resolved soon.

"It could be better, but all things considered, it's pretty nice here," explains Sgt. John Denney a soldier with the 16th Signal battalion.

It will take time, but the issues of food, water and comfort for the 3rd ACR will be taken care of as the resources are made available.

Showers are currently being set up on

the river walk, with other improvements soon to follow. Each minor improvement brings increased morale along with it and increases the fighting capabilities of the troops.

Already, many soldiers have fired up their generators and begun movie nights, while others read recent letters from home.

While it is not a permanent home and one must remain on guard, soldiers at the Northern palace in Ar Ramadi are making themselves comfortable as they begin the important task of building trust and friendship with their new neighbors.

## From the desk of...

### Regimental Command Sgt. Major Caldwell

Troopers of the Cavalry Regiment:

All troopers performing guard duty, now is the time to closely follow all of your general orders and special instructions. We are in a dangerous part of the world and there are unfriendly forces beyond the wire that may be looking to do us harm.

The safety and security of yourself and your buddies is at stake, so stay alert!

The last few weeks have been difficult, with a lot of moving around, many challenges to overcome and many changes taking place. Be flexible and react to the changes with a good attitude. Flexibility is the key to our success on the battlefield and as we transition into a stability and support operation here in Iraq.

Ay -ee-Yah!

## Regimental Reflections-

By Chaplain (MAJ) Christopher Faria, Regimental Chaplain  
Deuteronomy 32:10-12

10 "He found them in a desert land, in an empty, howling wasteland. He surrounded them and watched over them; he guarded them as his most precious possession.

11 Like an eagle that rouses her chicks and hovers over her young, so he spread his wings to take them in and carried them aloft on his pinions.

12 The LORD alone guided them; they lived without any foreign gods.

They were back in the desert again. 500 years after God had called Abraham from the desert city of Ur, Israel sat on the plains of Sinai as Moses, reviewed their history in Deuteronomy 32:10 and following.

Not far from where the Regiment currently is located, God "found them in a desert land, in an empty, howling wasteland." You might say that even Abraham hated the desert.

When elements of the Regiment pulled into TAA Dodge, it was a howling wasteland. The dust storm was so bad that everything turned greasy white and we couldn't see the vehicle in front of us.

Yet we were not alone



# US Troops Support, Safeguard Al Fallujah



Clockwise from top left- Soldiers from the 361st Psychological Operations Company placed a loud speaker on the roof to broadcast messages at FOB Laurie preparing for an organized demonstration on April 2, 2003. ---Members from the 490th Civil Affairs Battalion interact with the Iraqi civilians. ---After a grenade attack on FOB Laurie on April 30, 2003, this vehicle was left with exterior damage, three flat tires and a destroyed radiator. Three soldiers who were sleeping in the vehicle were wounded in the attack. - --A Cavalry Fighting Vehicle sits behind the walls of FOB Laurie posted for force protection in the still-hostile city just west of Baghdad. ---Two Army snipers from the 1st Armor Division sit atop the roof of the compound building at FOB Laurie to add security. (Photos by Sgt. Danny C. Martin Jr., 350th MPAD)



# The Back Page...

## The Wacky Wild World of News

### ---Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld Names New Army Secretary

According to Pentagon officials, the current Secretary of the Air Force, James Roche, will be the next Secretary of the Army.

This move is believed to follow Rumsfeld's plan to further integrate the U.S. Armed Forces, allowing them to work "jointly" rather than as separate entities, as in the past.

### --- GNC Plans to stop selling Ephedra

General Nutrition Centers announced on May 1, 2003, that it will stop selling products containing the weight-loss supplement ephedra.

GNC president Michael Meyers said the Pittsburgh-based company believes the products are safe when used as directed, but it has found more customers are using ephedra-

free products.

It plans to stop selling products with ephedra at the end of June.

### ---Peace Brewing Between Chinese and S. Korea

Chinese President Hu Jintao and South Korean President Roh Moo-hyun agreed during a phone conversation to seek a peaceful solution to a nuclear standoff on the Korean Peninsula.

### ---SARS Still Threatening the World

SARS, Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome, has now claimed over 500 lives in roughly 7,000 cases.

### ---No More MJ in the Washington area

Washington Wizards officials have announced they will sever their ties with Michael Jordan after this season.

Jordan had planned on returning to the corporate section of

the team next season

### ---Uncle Sam Watching Out for Possible Gulf War II Syndrome

DOD officials have plans to prevent the possibility of "Gulf War II" Syndrome.

The plan is to screen every servicemember who deployed for Operation Iraqi Freedom with a three-part process during the redeployment process.

### ---Arsenic in the Church Scares Maine Residents

New Sweden, Maine, residents were sent into fear as one person is left dead after an unexplained poisoning at a local church.

Two others were left in critical condition as police officers continue the investigation, which has turned up no leads, suspects or if it was even intentional.

### ---No Pity for Best Buy

Mr. T has sued Best Buy Co.

Inc., claiming the nation's largest electronics store didn't have permission to use his likeness in a print ad.

Born Laurence Tureaud, he is seeking unspecified monetary damages in the lawsuit filed in Los Angeles.

### ---Colorado Climber Forces Self Amputation to Survive

Aron Ralston, of Aspen, would have died had he stayed where he was, in remote Blue John Canyon, located in far southwestern Utah.

Using a pocketknife, Ralston cut off his arm below the elbow after two days of being trapped by a 1,000+ pound boulder.

After freeing himself, he rigged some ropes and rappelled 60 feet to the canyon floor.

Ralston was found by rescuers and was able to walk into the hospital on his own power.

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3rd ACR PAO  
Operation Iraqi Freedom  
APO AE 09320-1507

**Regimental Commander**  
Col. David A. Teeple

**Regimental Public Affairs Officer**  
Capt. Bren Workman

**Staff Publishing Editors**  
Capt. Michael Calvert  
Sgt. 1st Class Keith O'Donnell

**Editor/Layout**  
Sgt. Danny C. Martin Jr.

**Staff Reporters**  
Sgt. 1st Class Gary L. Qualls Jr.  
Spc. Joe Niesen  
Spc. Justin Carmack

## Major League Baseball

### National League East

Atlanta  
Montreal (even)  
Phil. (-1 ½)  
Florida (-4)  
New York (-7)

### Central

Chicago  
St. Louis (-1)  
Pittsburgh (-2 ½)  
Cincinnati (-4)  
Houston (-4 ½)  
Milwaukee (-7)

### West

San Francisco  
Colorado (-4 ½)  
Los Angeles (-6)  
Arizona (-8)  
San Diego (-9 ½)

### American League East

New York  
Boston (-3)  
Baltimore (-6 ½)  
Toronto (-11 ½)  
Tampa Bay (-12)

### Central

Kansas City  
Chicago (-3 ½)  
Minnesota (-5)  
Cleveland (-11)  
Detroit (-14 ½)

### West

Oakland  
Seattle (even)  
Anaheim (-3 ½)  
Texas (-4)

(All stats as of 03 May)

## Question of the Week:

What is the JP8 to MOGAS ratio for a successful burn of a quarter of a 55 gal. drum full of poo?

## Bonus:

What additional procedures are required for a complete burn?

Submit answers to: RCSM Caldwell in writing with name, rank and section.